



ARIZONA CROPS

March 2004

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ALL ORANGE PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM FEBRUARY

The U.S. all orange March forecast for the 2003-04 crop is 13.2 million tons, down 1 percent from the February 1 forecast, but 14 percent above last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast is unchanged at 246 million boxes (11.1 million tons), but 21 percent above the previous season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 127 million boxes (5.72 million tons), down 1 percent from last month, but 13 percent above the previous season. The harvest of the early and midseason varieties is nearly complete. Florida's Valencia forecast is 119 million boxes (5.36 million tons), up 1 percent from the February forecast and 31 percent above last season's final utilization. Fruit size continues to be above average, but not as large as last season. Loss from droppage is at a record low. California's all orange forecast is 54.0 million boxes (2.03 million tons), down 7 percent from the January forecast and 13 percent below last season. Valencia oranges are forecast at 15.0 million boxes (563,000 tons), down 21 percent from the January forecast and 29 percent below last season's final utilization. Picking of Valencia oranges is underway in some of the southern growing regions. Overall, sizing appears to be up from the previous year, but fruit are not as abundant on the trees. Rapid decreases in Valencia acreage continue in most parts of the State, as growers abandon their orchards or replace their Valencias with more profitable fruit or vegetable crops. California conducted an objective measurement survey and a grower survey for the March 1 forecast. Arizona and Texas orange production forecasts are carried forward from the previous forecasts.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield projection is unchanged at 1.53 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is projected at 1.45 gallons per box, down from 1.47 in February. The Valencia portion was raised to 1.62 gallons per box from 1.60. All projections of yield assume that the processing relationships this year will be similar to those of the past several years.

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RELEASE DATES FOR UPCOMING NATIONAL REPORTS

March 22 Cotton Ginnings
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March 31 Prospective Plantings
April 2 Vegetables
April 8 Crop Production

CITRUS FRUIT: UTILIZED PRODUCTION 2001/02-2002/03 AND FORECASTED MARCH 1, 2004 1/

Crop and State	Utilized Production		
	2001/02	2002/03	Forecasted 2003/04
1,000 Boxes 2/			
Oranges, Early			
Mid and Navel 3/			
AZ 4/	270	200	220
CA 4/	32,000	41,000	39,000
FL	128,000	112,000	127,000
TX 4/	1,530	1,350	1,300
US	161,800	154,550	167,520
Oranges, Valencia			
AZ 4/	250	270	250
CA	19,500	21,000	15,000
FL	102,000	91,000	119,000
TX 4/	210	220	230
US	121,960	112,490	134,480
All Oranges			
AZ 4/	520	470	470
CA	51,500	62,000	54,000
FL	230,000	203,000	246,000
TX 4/	1,740	1,570	1,530
US	283,760	267,040	302,000
Temples			
FL	1,550	1,300	1,400
All Grapefruit			
AZ 4/	160	130	100
CA 4/	5,900	5,600	5,200
FL	46,700	38,700	40,000
TX 4/	5,900	5,650	5,300
US	58,660	50,080	50,600
Tangerines			
AZ 4/ 5/	620	430	600
CA 4/ 5/	2,200	2,500	2,500
FL 6/	6,600	5,500	5,900
US	9,420	8,430	9,000
Lemons 4/			
AZ	2,800	3,000	3,200
CA	18,300	24,000	23,000
US	21,100	27,000	26,200
Tangelos			
FL	2,150	2,350	1,000
K-Early Citrus 7/			
FL	30		

1/ The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

2/ Net lbs. per box: oranges-AZ & CA-75, FL-90, TX-85; grapefruit-AZ & CA-67, FL-85, TX-80; lemons-76; tangelos, K-Early Citrus & Temples-90; tangerines-AZ & CA-75, FL-95.

3/ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.

4/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

5/ Includes tangelos and tangors.

6/ 2001-02 includes Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, Dancy, and Honey varieties; 2002-03 through 2003-04 includes Fallglo, Sunburst, and Honey varieties only.

7/ Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

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FEBRUARY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 2 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) above the January Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from January while the All Crops Index increased 2 points (1.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, broilers, corn, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, lettuce, eggs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco, and wheat.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 14 points (14 percent) from February 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from last month to 114, and is 18 points (19 percent) above February 2003.

PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 130 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from January but 2 points (1.6 percent) above February 2003. Lower prices in February for feeder cattle, feed concentrates, herbicides, and insecticides offset higher prices for complete feeds, nitrogen fertilizers, feed grains, and LP gas.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS: ARIZONA AND U.S., FEBRUARY 2003 AND 2004 AND JANUARY 2004

Commodity	Unit	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2003	January 2004	February 2004	February 2003	January 2004	February 2004
		Entire Month	Entire Month	Mid-Month	Entire Month	Entire Month	Mid-Month
Upland Cotton 1/	¢ Lb	2/	64.7	61.9	45.2	62.5	61.6
Cottonseed	\$ Ton	128.00	148.00	2/	111.00	127.00	140.00
All Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	3.68	3.68	3.68
Durum Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	4.24	3.97	4.03
Winter Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	3.52	3.66	3.60
All Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	100.00	85.00	85.00	91.80	79.30	79.90
Alfalfa Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	100.00	85.00	85.00	96.40	83.60	84.70
Other Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	93.00	80.00	80.00	79.40	71.40	69.90
Grapefruit 5/	\$ Box	13.40	15.50	15.80	14.50	15.10	15.30
Oranges 5/	\$ Box	15.10	16.80	15.10	14.10	17.30	17.80
Lemons 5/	\$ Box	20.30	22.30	23.10	20.90	22.40	23.70
Tangerines 5/	\$ Box	25.10	27.80	22.10	23.20	28.40	23.10
Cows 6/	\$ Cwt	40.60	46.30	44.50	38.90	46.10	46.20
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	79.90	91.00	90.00	78.10	85.40	81.60
Beef Cattle 7/	\$ Cwt	79.50	90.60	89.50	74.00	80.90	77.80
Calves	\$ Cwt	96.20	109.00	110.00	97.30	110.00	110.00
All Milk 8/	\$ Cwt	10.80	12.60	12.90	11.40	13.20	13.30

1/ Includes both spot and contract sales.

2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ Not available for Arizona.

4/ Mid-month.

5/ F.O.B. packed fresh Arizona box weights: Grapefruit 67 lbs., Oranges 75 lbs., Lemons 76 lbs., Tangerines 75 lbs.

6/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

7/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

8/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

U.S. PRICE INDEX SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX 1990-92 = 100	2003		2004	
	January	February	January	February
Prices Received	100	99	111	113
Prices Paid	126	128	130	130
Ratio 1/	79	77	85	87

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.